

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      GEORGE 02800 301843Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 EB-08 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 /094 W  
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R 301720Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2800

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PEPR, GY, NS  
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF FISHING LICENSES TO GUYANESE ALONG SURINAM  
BORDER

REF: PARAMARIBO 1152

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG) ANNOUNCED LATE YESTERDAY (AUG 29) THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAM (GOS) HAS AGREED TO RESTORE FISHING LICENSES TO GUYANESE FISHERMEN OPERATING IN THE CORENTYNE RIVER AREA. THE GOG ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT STEPS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE RETURN OF THE FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS EARLIER IN THE FISHING DISPUTE. (ONE BOAT, THE "SUGAM 26", IS PARTIALLY AMERICAN OWNED.)
2. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT OWNED "CHRONICLE" OF AUG 30, A THREE MAN DELEGATION OF GUYANESE FISHERMEN, ACCOMPANIED BY GUYANESE AMBASSADOR TO SURINAM SYDNEY SAUL, YESTERDAY RECEIVED THE FIRST LICENSES FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PARAMARIBO.
3. THE AUGUST 27 ISSUE OF THE "MIRROR", THE ORGAN OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, REPORTED ON CHEDDI JAGAN'S

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PAGE 02      GEORGE 02800 301843Z

TALKS WITH SURINAMESE PRIMIN ARRON ON AUGUST 18 (REFTTEL) REGARDING THE FISHING QUESTION. ACCORDING TO THE "MIRROR", JAGAN TOLD ARRON THAT THE PROBLEM SHOULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED A LONG TIME AGO, BUT WAS NOT, DUE TO GOG "INTRANSIGENCE". THE GOVERNMENT OWNED PRESS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS PORTRAYED THE RENEWAL OF THE FISHING LICENSES AS THE PRODUCT OF PERSISTENT GUYANESE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, WHICH MADE THE

GOS SEE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS IN REVOKING THE LICENSES IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE QUESTION OF THE SEIZURE OF FISHING VESSELS WAS TREATED TNLY IN PASSING BY THE "CHRONICLE", IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE DISCUSSING RESTORATION OF "NORMALCY" ON THE CORENTYNE RIVER AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOS AND GOG ON A FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS, FROM THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, OF THE JULY 10 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM AND SUBSEQUENT DOMESTIC CALM, THE GOG MAY HAVE FELT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL MILEAGE LEFT IN DRAGGING OUT THE DISPUTE. PRESUMABLY THE GOG AND GOS CAN NOW DEVOTE LESS OF THEIR ENERGY TO THE CORENTYNE FISHING PROBLEM AND DEVOTE MORE TIME TO AREAS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE. GUYANESE LIVING IN THE CORENTYNE HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE SITUATION IN FACT HAS BEEN RELAXED FOR SOME TIME AND THAT GUYANESE FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OPERATE EVEN BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSES WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE SURINAMESE AUTHORITIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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